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POLAND

The tactical war of nerves between the regime and the new trade union, Solidarity, continued yesterday, but it does not yet appear that the unionists have called a general strike.

The agreement between Solidarity and the Warsaw court reportedly reached on Thursday on registration of the union apparently fell apart when the court raised additional objections to the union's registration documents. Solidarity responded by issuing a statement that failure to register the union in the near future would be tantamount to breaking the strike settlement signed in late August and would force the union into another strike.

The Coordinating Commission for Solidarity will meet again on Monday evening. If the union has not been registered by that time, the Commission may declare a general strike for later in the week. Such advance notice would give the government time to respond and the unionists time to formulate specific plans.

Solidarity leader Walesa, who with other union leaders was in Warsaw yesterday participating in the work of a government commission on a new trade union law, will be touring southern Poland this weekend. Prospects for a strike could be discussed at that time.

If some strikes do occur in Poland on Monday, they will be a disquieting signal that the free trade union leadership is having difficulty in reaching coordinated decisions and controlling its rank and file.

Soviet Attitude

The Solidarity strike threat underlines its appreciation of its ability to reescalate its contest with the regime to a high state of confrontation at any time. It also indicates an appreciation that the regime, if left to its own devices, will attempt to meet the unionists' terms rather than contemplate draconian measures that might well prove counterproductive.

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The unionists have shown an appreciation that Moscow is monitoring the situation closely for any sign that the government has irretrievably lost the ability to gain the initiative. There has been no authoritative Soviet commentary on the Polish situation for almost three weeks--since party leader Kania began in earnest attempts to restore the party's unity and purpose at a Central Committee meeting.

Although East European leaders have filled the void with warnings of their own, Moscow's silence suggests it believes its continued public pressure is not necessary at the moment. Nor have the Soviets escalated political pressure on the Poles through such devices as a meeting of Warsaw Pact leaders or summoning Kania to Moscow.

The Soviets probably will adhere to this posture unless the confrontation moves to a higher level. If that happens, the Soviets probably would consider intervening. Because we do not believe confrontation in Poland is necessarily imminent, the likelihood of Soviet intervention is not currently any higher than it has been since the strike settlement in August.

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